

TCS-5420/63
18 November 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Current Intelligence

SUBJECT : Preliminary Evaluation of Mission 3239
Flown on 14 November 1963

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1. This mission was flown over the border area of northern Laos, adjacent Burma and southern China. It is the first coverage of this area since [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]. There were no significant changes in targets previously covered and no significant new items of intelligence.

2. Road construction from Cheli toward Burma and from Mengla toward Laos continues. It is not possible to determine the extent of progress on the bridge under construction over the Mekong River near Napan. In May 1963 the piers for this 1200 foot bridge were in place and both approaches were under construction.

3. The net impression gained from photographic coverage of this area since December 1962 is that the Chinese are improving their military potential to support any military operations they might choose to mount against Southeast Asia. These developments appear to be long range projects, however, and these are not being undertaken with any degree of urgency. They do not reflect plans for hostilities in the near future.

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